

has begun to develop between Canada and Iran. Both countries are large in proportion to population. Both countries have substantial natural resources, and lie in close proximity to strong neighbours who have need of those resources. Both countries have the strongest possible interest and desire for the preservation of peace, and the extension of commercial and social intercourse throughout the world.

At a luncheon given by Senator Safari, the Government Leader in the Senate, I had a most interesting discussion with Professor Sadiq, the founder of the University of Tehran and of a number of other colleges and universities in Iran. He is probably the greatest authority on the history of Iran, having written some 26 books on the subject.

He told us that the new Iran began under Shah Reza Pahlavi, the father of the present Shah, of whom Senator Sadiq was a collaborator. He said that Shah Reza Pahlavi was not highly educated, but he was progressive and a good judge of men. He was proud to say that the present Shah has all the qualities of his father, plus the advantage of an excellent education.

I asked him why Iran was known as Persia to the rest of the world. He said that Persia was the name of the province where Persepolis, the ancient capital of the Persian empire, is situated. The outside world got into the habit of referring to the whole country as Persia, but in the Farsi tongue the country has always been Iran—land of the Aryans. He said that the history of the western world is in error in a number of matters. Alexander the Great did not order the destruction of Persepolis. He ordered it to be preserved, but his soldiers sacked it. He said that Persian artifacts indicate nothing of Persians ever going across the Bosphorus into Greece, and historians have proved that Herodotus' story about the rape of Athens by Xerxes could not have happened. Our conversation with Professor Sadiq was another of the fascinating experiences of our visit to Iran.

I should not leave the subject of the Senate luncheon without saying that it was held in the beautiful Senate building in Tehran. While I love and revere this place, I must say that I was impressed by the beautiful decor and facilities of the Senate building in Tehran.

On another day the majority leader in the Majlis entertained us at the Parliament Buildings. Beautiful new facilities are being constructed because of the expansion of size of the Majlis, but the old Parliament Building is a joy to behold. The feature of it is the Hall of Mirrors, which is almost blinding in its brilliance. The legend is that the ruling Shah at the time of its construction ordered mirrors to match those at Versailles, but when they arrived they were broken. He then caused the pieces to be arranged in intricate patterns which developed an Iranian style which has been carried on through the years, and can now be seen in palaces and other public buildings. At the luncheon I sat with the President of the National Insurance Corporation, and learned a great deal about the way in which the capital assets of the corporation have been used to build hotels and devel-

op other tourist and national development projects in the country.

Of the eight days we were in Iran, three were spent in travelling the country. In Isfahan we stayed at the Shah Abbas Hotel, one of the facilities built by the National Insurance Corporation. I think it must be the most beautiful hotel in the world. In its lobbies, dining rooms and bars are displayed all of the artistic culture of the people of Isfahan—paintings, filigree, tilework, carpets, the designs of the honeycombs of the mosques, and on and on. The gardens are also magnificent.

In Isfahan we saw the Blue Mosque, the Palace of Forty Columns, the bazaar, the Friday Mosque, the ancient bridges—all very exciting for a person who had never before visited the Middle East.

In Shiraz we found ourselves among a deluge of roses. The rose originated in Shiraz, but we were told that until about ten years ago roses had become almost extinct there. Now the road from the airport to the city has a boulevard seven miles long of solid roses. The monuments to the great poets, Saadi and Hafiz, and the famous Garden of Paradise are probably the most beautiful things of their kind anywhere in the world.

At the ruins of Persepolis, some 30 miles from Shiraz, we found ourselves at the birthplace of a civilization. This was the ancient capital of Cyrus the Great, of Darius, of Xerxes, of Artixerxes. Here were their palaces, their tombs, the ruins of their city of over two million people, the carvings, and the lofty columns topped by elaborate capitals. And all these relics of antiquity were surrounded by signs of preparation for the great celebrations of the twenty-five hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Persian Empire by Cyrus the Great—a modern hotel, a tent city, a stadium, vast parking lots and beautiful highways. Persepolis was another tremendous thrill.

Back in Tehran we were advised that arrangements had been made for us to be taken to Abadan and Kargh Island the following day. Abadan is about a three-hour flight from Tehran on the Shatt-al-Arab, the major river flowing into the north end of the Persian Gulf. It is the major oil city of the world. But perhaps the most intriguing part of that trip was the visit to Kargh Island which is about an hour's flight out into the Persian Gulf. It is a piece of sand and coral on which has been built the greatest oil distribution centre of the world. It is fed by four submarine pipelines bringing heavy and light crude from the various oil fields on shore. It has storage for 14 million barrels of oil. That capacity will be increased to 20 million barrels over the next three years by the addition of six more 1,000,000-barrel tanks, the largest oil storage tanks in the world. From the loading jetty ten 250,000-ton tankers can be loaded at once through a computerized loading system. On the other side of the island they are building a sea island jetty which will handle the 500,000-ton tankers which have not yet been built. And with the 100-degree heat came the warmth of hospitality by the managers of the national oil companies, with a marvellous dinner and a swim in the Persian Gulf.